

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1128

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN, ET, US
SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN GOVT PROTESTS AMB YOUNG'S COMMENTS AS
REPORTED IN NEWSWEEK OF FEBRUARY 27

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1068

1. FOLLOWING MY DEMARCHE TO ETHIOPIAN GOVT ON ANOTHER
MATTER, MOFA AMERICAN DIVISION DIRECTOR BERHANE DERESSE
USED OCCASION TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS "TO DISCUSS" AMB
YOUNG'S COMMENTS ON HORN WHICH WERE REPORTED IN FEB 27
"NEWSWEEK" ARTICLE. BERHANE SAID THAT AMB YOUNG'S REMARKS
HAD BEEN RECEIVED WITH STRONG CRITICISM WITHIN HIGHEST
LEVELS OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND THAT STRONG PUBLIC PROTEST
HAD BEEN PREPARED. HOWEVER, EFFORTS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY TO
SUPPRESS PUBLIC STATEMENT HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL ON BASIS THAT
IT WAS BETTER TO RAISE ISSUE PRIVATELY WITH AMB YOUNG AND
USG.

2. BERHANE RECALLED HIS PERSONAL MEETINGS WITH AMB YOUNG
DURING RECENT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN COMPANY OF FONMIN AND
PERMSEC AND FAVORABLY REMARKED ON AMB YOUNG'S DEEP CONCERN
FOR AFRICA AND FACT THAT HE HAD AFRICA'S BEST INTERESTS AT
HEART. HOWEVER, BERHANE THOUGHT THAT AMB YOUNG'S RECENT
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STATEMENTS ON HORN WERE UNINFORMED AND WERE COMING TOO
FREQUENTLY. THEY WERE ALSO CAUSING SOME DAMAGE TO ETHIOPIA
AND DISRESPECT FOR HER WITHIN AFRICA. ETHIOPIAN GOVT PRE-
FERRED TO REGISTER ITS CONCERN OVER SUCH ANTI-ETHIOPIAN
STATEMENTS BY AMB YOUNG PRIVATELY FIRST, RATHER THAN POSSIBLY
AFFECTING AMB YOUNG'S STANDING IN AFRICA. BERHANE EXPRESSED
HIS GOVT'S WILLINGNESS TO CONSULT WITH AMB YOUNG EITHER IN

NEW YORK OR WASHINGTON PRIOR TO FUTURE PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON HORN TO INFORM HIM ABOUT ACTUAL SITUATION. BERHANE ALSO FAVORABLY NOTED PERSONAL LETTER FROM AMB YOUNG TO FONMIN FELLEKE FOLLOWING DEP ASST SECY HARROP'S EFFORTS. HE CONCLUDED BY URGING, ON BEHALF OF ETHIOPIAN GOVT, THAT DEPT INFORM AMB YOUNG OF FORMER'S CONCERNS AND POSSIBLY COUNSEL HIM ABOUT SIMILAR STATEMENTS IN THE FUTURE.

3. I ASSURED BERHANE THAT I WOULD COMMUNICATE HIS GOVT'S VIEWS TO THE DEPT AND AMB YOUNG; BUT IN DOING SO, I DREW HIS ATTENTION TO OFFICIAL ETHIOPIAN GOVT POLICY OF RED TERROR AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WHICH IT HAS ENGENDERED. I FURTHER STATED THAT ALTHOUGH I COULD NOT SPEAK ON BEHALF OF AMB YOUNG, I EMPHASIZED THAT VIEWS AMB YOUNG HAD EXPRESSED ON CUBAN AND SOVIET PRESENCE HERE WERE NOT SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE CONVEYED BY SPECIAL EMISSARY AARON TO MENGISTU.
MATHERON

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Message Attributes

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